

August 23, 2002

Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification

**California Department of Transportation
Highway 101 Culvert Revision at Post Miles 110.34, 110.97, 113.54
WDID No. 1B02113WNHU**

Humboldt County

On July 19, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (CDOT) requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Highway 101 Culvert Revision Project at Post Miles (PMs) 110.34, 110.97, and 113.54. The application was deemed complete on August 12, 2002.

The proposed culvert revisions will occur at three separate sites located along Highway 101 in Humboldt County. Culvert revision site 1 is located at PM 110.34 approximately 4 miles north of the City of Trinidad at Tom Creek. Culvert revision site 2 is located at PM 110.97 in a small unnamed ephemeral creek that discharges to Big Lagoon approximately 500 feet from the culvert. Culvert revision site 3 is located at PM 113.54 in a small unnamed stream that discharges to Dry Lagoon approximately 1000 feet from the culvert. All three sites are located in the CDOT right-of-way.

At the Tom Creek culvert revision site (PM 110.34), CDOT will install a cast-in-place concrete endwall to stabilize the existing 6x6 concrete box culvert. Construction of the endwall will occur at the west (outlet) end of the culvert. In order to expose the west end of the culvert it may be necessary to excavate approximately 200 cubic yards of earthen material to a depth of 3-6 feet below the grade at the culvert. Creek diversion is not required for the installation of the endwall. At culvert revision site 2 (PM 110.97), CDOT will line the ditch and basin of the culvert with an impermeable layer of geomembrane covered by rock in order to raise the incoming water level and restore the flow of the creek through the culvert. The headwall (inlet) at site 2 will be replaced, but this is not expected to require the dewatering of the creek. Restoration of creek flow through the culvert at site 2 is expected to promote anadromy. The third culvert revision project (PM 113.54) involves removing the existing steel flared end section (SFES) of the culvert and the corrugated steel pipe (CSP). These sections will be replaced by a Bituminous-coated steel flared end section (SFES) and a Bituminous-coated corrugated steel pipe (CSP). These elements are located in dry uplands. Approximately 10 cubic yards of Rock Energy Dissipater (RED) will be added beneath the outlet of the culvert. The asphalt-coated ditch will be repaved. Depending on the amount of water flow into the work area at the outlet, dewatering of the stream may be necessary.

The total area of temporary impact is approximately 0.074 acre. Compensatory mitigation will not be required for this project. Noncompensatory mitigation measures

include the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The BMPs for these projects will include the use of sediment basins or sediment tanks. Straw bales, silt fencing, fiber rolls, or similar structures will be placed at the outlets of the culverts to control sediment discharge. All vegetation disturbed during construction will be replanted.

The California Department of Transportation (CDOT) determined that this project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to Class 1, Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Trinidad Hydrologic Unit No. 108.00. The nearest receiving water for site 1 (PM 110.34) is Big Lagoon. The nearest receiving water for site 2 (PM 110.97) is a small unnamed ephemeral creek that currently flows through the culvert approximately 500 feet from Big Lagoon. The nearest receiving water for site 3 (PM 113.54) is a small unnamed stream that flows into Dry Lagoon 1000 feet from the culvert.

The culvert revision project is scheduled to begin June 15, 2003 and end by October 15, 2003. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). Comments on this project should be submitted to Ben Zabinsky at zabib@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.